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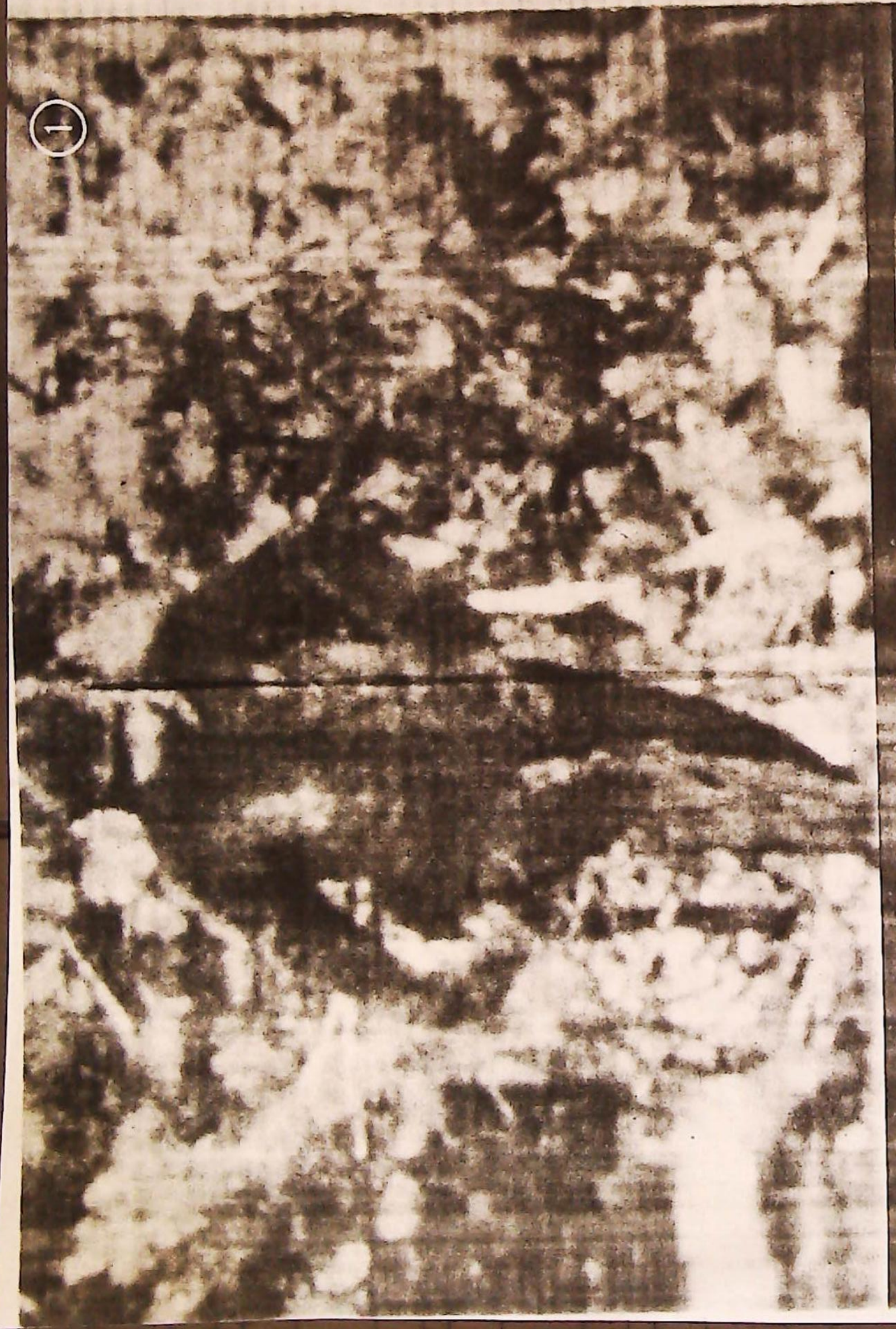


UFOS AND THE PARA-APE CONNECTION

by Don Worley

Large, hairy, creatures have frequently been associated with UFO landings. Bigfoot-like beings from outer space, another dimension, or part of our own lost heritage?

Off and on in the months before all hell broke loose on his farm, Ben Nobbe (not his real name) would see some very strange objects in the sky over his farm. Usually they were glowing objects seen at night. However, one time in daylight the craft hovered over his property. It looked like a banana boat to him. A Vietnam War veteran who was once shot down in a flaming helicopter, Ben knew aircraft. Also, months before he had begun to see the objects, his teen age step-son Andy suddenly started screaming one night. The overwrought boy insisted that he had seen the face of an ape in his upstairs bedroom window.

The northeastern corner of Ohio in which the witness lives is an area of small towns, farms, and forests. A group of Amish were engaged in cutting timber in the dense wooded part of Nobbe's property. One day in early May, 1981, shots rang out and the Amish came rushing out of the forest with their work horse. These tight-lipped individuals would not say what had happened, but the horse had what appeared to be deep claw marks in its side. A month passed before they returned to the spot to get their sawing equipment.

In the first week of June, Ben discovered that some of his ducks were missing. He found them down by the creek. All six had their heads bitten off and several had a bite mark in the stomach. Ben buried the ducks and never mentioned the incident to his family. The unseen alien agency that was somehow present now moved in on the farm and showed its terrifying face. If the family had known what was to come no doubt they would have fled the place immediately. Late one night, the loud quacking of ducks in the yard brought Ben to the front door with his flashlight. The beam illuminated a big black form with two red glowing eyes that was down on all fours perhaps going after the ducks. The sight temporarily stunned Ben, but he soon leaped for his 4-10 shotgun, rushed to the door, and got off a shot. The creature bolted out of sight before he could fire again. No one in the house slept much for the rest of the night.

The next night saw the dog out back barking uncontrollably then begin to make a loud whimpering cry. Stepping to the back door, Ben illuminated the dog which was frantically trying to dig itself a space under the push lawnmower. His beam next picked up something black standing next to a hoist he had built in the backyard. When the beam illuminated the face of this huge, broadshouldered, figure Ben's heart momentarily fluttered, and the thought maybe he was going to have a heart attack. It was similar to a gorilla, but had two fiery self-luminous eyes the size of baseballs. It had fangs, and he noticed fifty cent-sized white spots on its chest. The huge shaggy thing stood there looking at him snarling and growling. Later comparison with markings on the hoist revealed that it was nine and a half feet tall. Ben rushed back in the house for his gun, but the creature had taken off.

Thus began what was to become a virtual war zone on summer nights lasting into September. On the tapes made of these very unbelievable events you can hear a very disturbed Ben Nobbe say, "I don't know what it is or what they are! Its got my family scared! I don't want to lose my home! I've got to stay and fight! I've got to stay until it kills me or I kill it!". After the first appearance of the entity the sheriff and the game warden were called. The family was advised to preserve any footprints and do no shooting. No one came, and apparently these individuals thought the Nobbes were calling about a bear.

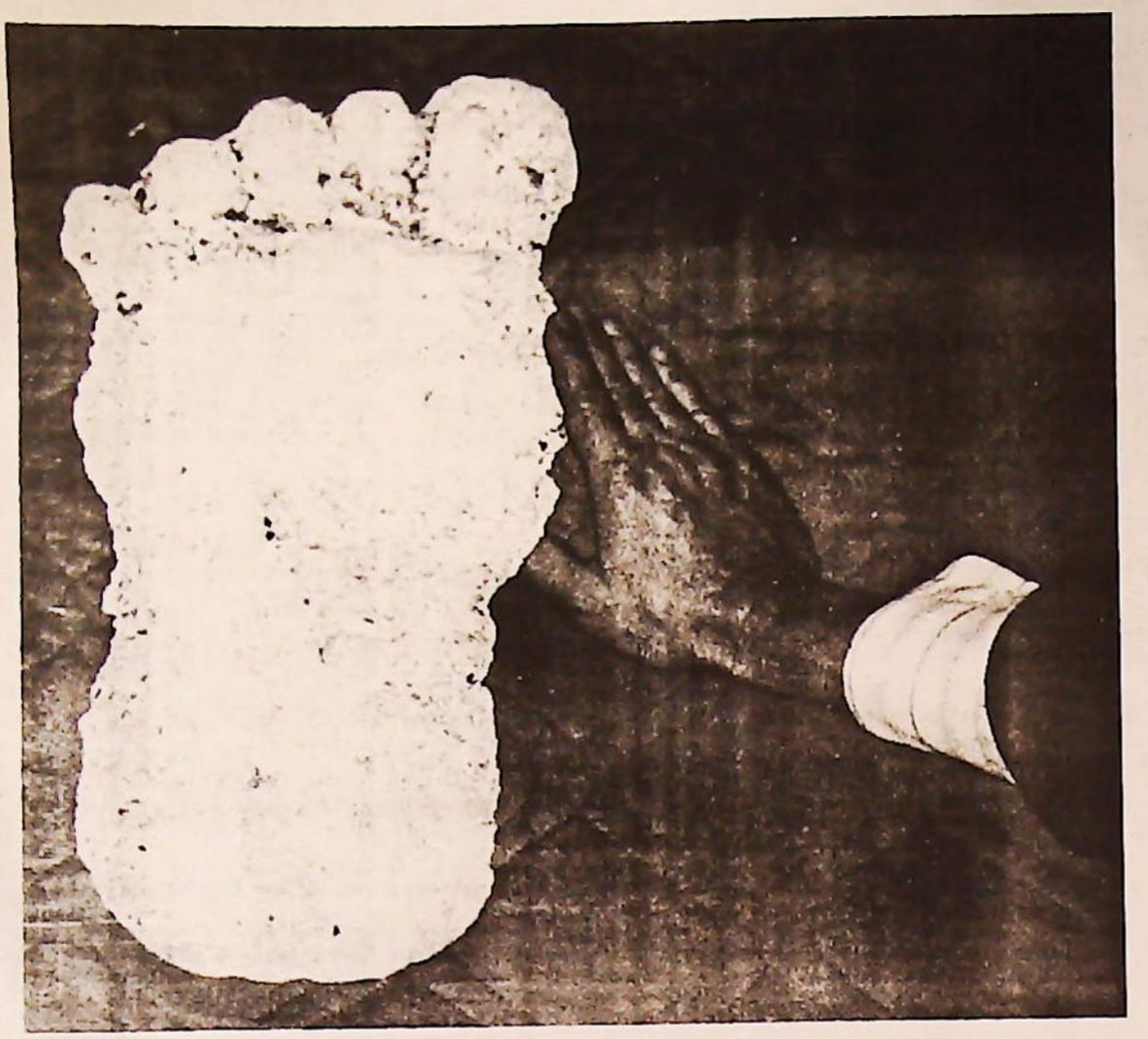
SASQUATCH IS REAL!

These dramatic photos were taken by Ivan L. Marx, expert hunter, tracker, a vocational wild life guide, and the cinematographer for the movie, "In the Shadow of Bigfoot," an Amazing Horizons, Inc. production. Ivan Marx may well be the only person in the world with the knowledge of how, where and when to lay-in-wait, camera at the ready, to successfully and repeatedly capture this creature on film.

The photographs were taken near Mt. Lassen, California, photo 1 depicts the Bigfoot as it is charging from the brush. At that time, Ivan believed that he and his wife, Peggy, were being attacked, thus he shot the charging Sasquatch, with his rifle (felling him, as seen in the movie — "In the Shadow of Bigfoot," the great creature is seen to get up after tumbling end over end, agonizing, and convulsing). Photo 2 shows the man-like mammal after he has been shot, taking a giant leap into the brush (and then striding away). These are only two frames from the film of the "shooting" footage.

Dr. Warren L. Cook, a Pulitzer Prize nominee and Bolton Prize winning Yale Ph.D., who teaches Anthropology and History at Castleton State College in Vermont has exhaustively examined Marx' photographs and film, and the circumstances under which they were taken. Dr. Cook considers the photos and film to be genuine and of great value to science. One of the few anthropologists to take seriously the subject of Bigfoot, alias "Bushman" (Alaska), "Skunkape" (Florida); Cook points to corroboratory details in research recently published by the late Dian Fossey on mountain gorillas, about which Marx could not have known at the time he took these photos and other sequences of the legendary animal.

Video copies of the full-length feature "In the Shadows of Bigfoot" are available for $39.95 (plus $3 shipping) from Amazing Horizons, Box 61662, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. (Tel: 408 947-5857)



Compared to the human hand, a plaster of paris footprint of a Para-Ape is easily dwarfed.

Once in response to a 5:00 A.M. call a deputy arrived. He observed a few distorted prints in the ground. When an urgent call was made to the sheriff's department one night two patrol cars responded. The officers shined their spotlights around but didn't see anything. After this visit the Nobbes learned not to expect help from local law enforcement officials.

Soon, the family began to see the red-eyed beings moving in the distant tree line behind the house. Ben was mad. He sought to protect his family and drive these things off his farm. One night accompanied by a son and his nephew who had come to help, he drove his tractor out in the field toward the tree line. There they saw a virtual ghostly parade of strange forms. First a different type of form appeared which they would occasionally see. It had a different configuration and appeared simultaneously with the ape forms. A dark blue light flash would usually occur before these beings appeared. Then a human-like form in a soft white glow would also appear. Sometimes they seemed to be holding a regular-sized blue beamed flashlight. Sometimes only a horizontal phantom blue beam would flash. One of the gunners took aim at the black form only to have it vanish. Soon a number of paired red eyes were moving in the tree line. Ben and his nephew opened up with their 12 gauge Mossburg guns, and two boxes of shells later had only bruised shoulders to show for it all. The forms would scream a woman's scream when hit and run away. The fear grew that they might be cut off from the house so they roared back and watched from a distance the rest of the night.

By the last week of June, the two gunners had taken refuge on the roof of the two story house. Ben strung barbed wire around some parts of his house. In early June, a very able and talented man who was going to investigate and document this epic case arrived and began his work. David Parker, a local investigator-researcher, would later call in other equally qualified persons to help. The final result was a very thorough investigation of this very complex case.

The investigators found it to their advantage not to try to interfere with all the gunfire. Throughout the manifestations on the farm a profusion of strange footprint impressions were found. These came in a variety. Some were small three-toed, others were large three-toed, and some had five toes.

In July, the gunners were spending a lot of time on the roof. The alien force seemed to be playing some kind of unfathomable game with them. They would see the red-eyed beings in the tree line, fire at them, and hear them scream. One night four box-like objects the size of large oil tanks began to hover low over the tree line. They were beautiful and changed colors. Then, a white beam that covered about half an acre was projected down. The aeroforms stayed about 10 minutes with the red-eyed things moving in the light below. Aerial craft were seen on other nights flying directly over the gunners. One July night, two of the glowing-eyed apes came quite close to the farmhouse. The gunners held their fire and Ben tried to communicate with them, but they just stood there with no response, and after a while the shooters opened up point blank. In the morning 12 gauge punkin ball holes were found in the ground as if they had passed directly through their intended target.

The 15-year-old step-son Andy seemed to be a key link with all these manifestations. When the activity was most rampant he would lapse into a sleep-like state from which he cuold not be awakened. The alarmed parents would rush him away to the grandparents house where he would awaken and not remember anything that had happened. Although very reluctant to talk about it, researcher Parker was — with the help of the mother — able to get an hour and half interview with the son. In this difficult interview, Andy would sometimes crack up and begin to cry as he tried to describe how those he called his "teachers" would come into his bedroom at night and take him away to their craft.

Ben and Elmer had had an experience with a glowing ball and light beam while on the roof, but the beam that hit Andy had more serious consequences. As the family and some friends emerged from a vehicle in the driveway, a globe of light appeared in a nearby field. The intense beam struck Andy in the head before his father could warn him. Here from the tape is Ben's description of this event: "You didn't see him that night, I did! He was going grr,

Seen throughout the western United States and Canada, Bigfoot is said to roam the dense woods as is shown in this photo by the late Roger Peterson.

grrl I mean sitting right on the porch. How would you like your own son to do that? We had guns and were standing by the truck. The beam struck him right in the head. He jumped off the truck and ran for the garage. He was just going crazy and had a shotgun in his hand. He was pointing it all over the place and I had to take it away from him.

"I mean you could see his temples. They were just bulging. He said, 'I can't stand it! I can't stand it!' He was near the porch steps and he would go grr, grrl I hurried in the house and got a Bible and came back out and put it in his hand. That Bible smoked! I told Andy to repeat the three highest names in the Bible — father, son, and holy ghost! Grr, grrl — his eyes rolled back in his head like a dying bull! Grr, grr — finally his mother got him calmed down. He said, 'Mommy, they are laughing at me. Make them stop!'

"I was getting ready to jump on him. I mean, I didn't want to hit my own boy. He just went crazy. And he said, 'They are over at the sawdust pile.' Then a saucer-shaped thing lifted up over the tree tops and took off — psst and it was gone. Then I saw something over in the cornfield and shot at it. Andy jumped off the porch and said, 'You lied to us! You tried to kill us!' Then a kitten wandered on the porch and he said, 'What is that?' I told him and he said, 'We like little animals. They don't hurt us'. He said, 'Your guns can't kill us, but it's the sound from them that hurts.' He eyed the guns sitting by the tree, and I took them away. We put him in the car and headed for his grandmother's. Just as we reached the end of the road he fell asleep.

Later when he came to he didn't remember anything about what happened that evening at the farm."

The family at this point started to wonder if the seemingly diabolical force present might not be devilish. They decided to get someone to banish it with an exorcism ritual. The man who came was not a priest, but he was a minister. He walked around and talked about evil spirits. No change was noticed in the malevolent presence at the farm.

In August, Parker and his friends embarked on a full-scale effort to record and maybe help the fearful, embattled family. They were destined to repeatedly see the phenomena themselves yet fail in their efforts to help. In their attempts, a number of busy, astounding nights ensued. One night using a high beam light they were able to catch the full red-glowing-eyed face of one entity then see its shining black hair, and see the shadow its body cast.

Another time some rocks were thrown into the dense brush about 6 feet deep in the treeline, and in response one rock came flying back over their heads. They never did get around to using an expensive crucifix. Maybe all the gunfire made it seem inappropriate. When one elusive creature became clearly visible, an investigator quickly photographed it. Disappointment developed when all that showed on the film was a softball-sized glowing ball with flourescent red-orange streaks on its left side.

The group hoped to use three decoy rabbits containing cyanide capsules to set a fatal trap for the anthropoid-like things harrassing the Nobbes. The rabbits were tied to metal milk crates using 1,200 pound test parachute cord. A group of about 10 persons were scattered about watching to see what happened. The sound of a rabbit screaming was played on a tape recorder. Six sets of glowing red eyes came up to the woodline. One creature was shot at

Drawing based on eye-witness testimony of para-apes seen in Ohio.

and they later thought they heard a whimpering in the woods. A number of the red-eyed beings appeared, but dawn revealed that the rabbits were still there. In the end, all the gunfire seemed self-defeating. Most of the observers went home to sleep, and there was a short interval during which time the rabbits were not watched. One of the rabbits had been taken. A leading regional Forensic Lab found that the cord had not been cut or chewed. It was broken in an exploded manner. No human hands could have snapped it. There were a number of 18-inch, five-toed prints around the spot. No ape figure was ever found dead anywhere from the effects of the cyanide capsule in the rabbit it had gobbled down.

In September, the frightening paranormal activity tapered off on the farm, but

ET AND BIGFOOT — ARE THEY RELATED?

Recently, it has become clear that the eastern portion of the United States, particularly the area through Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Jersey, has been experiencing an ever-increasing number of reported sightings of both UFOs and Big Foot which appear to be related.

It is the opinion of such astute researchers as Dr. J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies, that these Big Foot creatures may be inter-dimensional.

The noted astronomer holds that the para-anthropoids, as they have also been dubbed, may come from some "parallel universe," having the ability to slip in and out of our dimension at will.

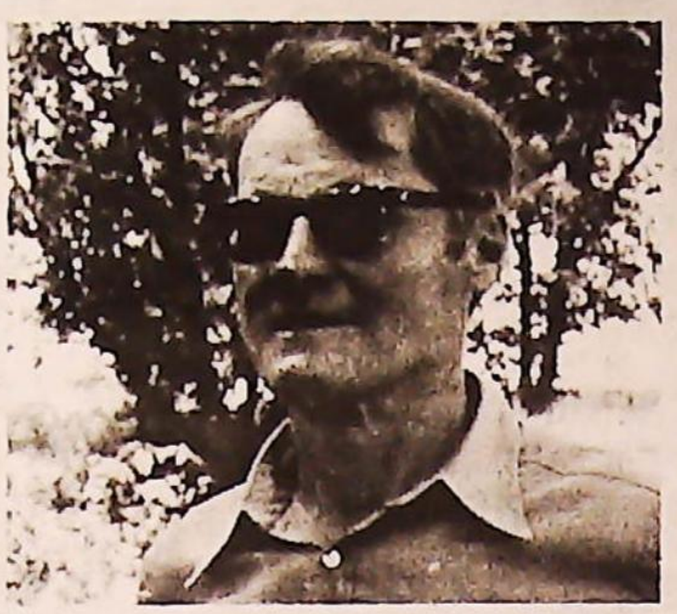
If this were true, it might serve as an explanation for the fact that while Mr. C. fired at a 12-foot target at point-blank range, saw that target jump in mid-air and immediately rushed to where the wounded creature should have fallen, he found no trace of a body. The creature may well have made good his escape by having slipped out of our universe through some dimension-connecting tunnel.

Again in Flintville, Tennessee, in May, 1976, a sheriff's posse, answering complaints concerning a hairy being, pursued the creature. The being was finally cornered by the lawmen, and at that point vanished completely. All that remained were a number of unidentifiable footprints.

Ms. Joan L. Jeffers, who is a top UFO investigator in the Pennsylvania area, recalls the harrowing experience of a housewife whom she interviewed. Alone in her house, the woman chanced to look out her kitchen window and discovered that she was being spied upon by a being which resembled a giant ape. Quaking in fear, the woman managed to find her husband's rifle and raised it to her trembling shoulder. She held her breath, forcing herself to slowly increase the pressure of her finger on the gun's trigger. The sudden eruption of rifle fire filled the air. Once again, the Big Foot merely disappeared before her eyes.

One of the most sensational reports of recent times places a para-anthropoid, or Big Foot, inside of a UFO, and is verified by Prof. J.M. Bostrack, an area investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

Bostrack, who is a University of Wisconsin professor of biology, says that after a number of interviews with a Wisconsin



Frederick Bosak could hardly believe his eyes when he saw a Bigfoot-like creature inside a transparent UFO on the darkened roadway.

farmer, Frederick Bosak, he is convinced of the elderly man's sincerity.

Bosak had left a co-op meeting and was driving toward his 450-acre farm at 10:30 P.M. on December 2, 1974. The weather had been clear, but now an overcast was setting in.

"Moments after entering a particularly heavy fog bank, my headlights struck something, the likes of which I'll never forget," related Bosak.

"Resting in the left lane of this desolate stretch of road was a dome-shaped object. It appeared to be made out of a substance akin to glass, so I could see right through it.

"The craft stood 6½ feet high and about six feet wide. I've never seen a weirder contraption; it was strange."

Attracted by the bizarre vehicle, Bosak approached in his car, pulled up alongside and peered inside. "There, looking right back at me," he comments, the wonder still filling his voice, "was a humanoid being, apparently a visitor from another world.

"His body was partly obscured. But even from the waist up, I could tell that it was definitely an alien creature."

"All I know for sure is that he had thick reddish-brown hair covering his face and arms. This heavy layer of hair appeared to extend downward to the region of his chest. I say this because, if he was wearing an outfit of any kind, it had to be completely seamless — with no buttons, snaps or pockets being apparent."

Bosak remembered the spaceman's head having coarse hair which had been cropped to its skull. It had long arms, and when the creature stood up and raised them, they almost touched the top of the UFO. It gave the impression that for some reason it was trying to break out of the spaceship's confines.

One of Bosak's most vivid memories was that of the creature's face, which he said was like nothing he had ever seen. "It was more square than round," Bosak stated. "The ears were long and pointed, like the ears of a calf. I don't remember much about his nose, but I am positive he had one.

"The eyes — I doubt frankly if I'll ever be able to erase them from my memory. They were big and round, really protruding.

"It was obvious he was as surprised to see me as I was to come across him. I guess you might say we were mutually frightened out of our wits.

"For a split second, I thought of running into this object and tipping it over. But then I figured I'd better leave well enough alone."

As he hurried to up as much distance as possible between himself and his eerie companion, Bosak drove his car within inches of the UFO. The interior of his car suddenly appeared to turn pitch black.

"I'm still not certain whether the lights dimmed or the inside of my car was immersed in an ominous black cloud of some sort. It was truly weird.

"Then I heard a sort of swish, and it seemed like this thing was crawling toward me. You can bet I got out of there fast."

Joan L. Jeffers, an unpaid co-director of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research, is positive that para-anthrapoids exist, and that they have close links to UFOs. Ms. Jeffers notes that the Big Foot creatures which roam the forests of Pennsylvania often leave their three-or-four-toed imprints on the ground near where UFOs have been sighted. In her opinion the creatures are more man-like than ape-like.

"I have seen hundreds of the Creatures' footprints (in Southwest Pennsylvania) and saw two Creatures once while driving with another UFO Center member," she reveals. "They looked like tall, dark forms with reflecting eyes. They stood and walked along as we drove the car." Ms. Jeffers estimates their height at somewhere between seven and nine feet. •

Timothy Green Beckley

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it was already too late for the hapless inhabitants who had gone through so much. There transpired a final disintegration of this unfortunate family when divorce reared its ugly head. Each member went his or her own way and the scene of such incredible paranormal phenomena became just another empty farmhouse.

What are we to think about this series of bizarre, totally unbelievable, events in northern Ohio? They were thoroughly investigated by experienced investigators who even observed the phenomena themselves. The unfortunate catalyst Andy and his suffering folks are credible witnesses who had no motive what-so-ever to make up such a fantastic tale.

Such ape-like forms have been seen many times before. In a 1978 analysis of 234 US reports, 602 persons described entities of this general nature. In 22 cases gunfire had no effect. There were a good number of UFO paraphysical related cases in the total. My conclusion (with the eastern variety of ape creatures at least), was that we are dealing here with the bio-etheric creations of the primordial, cun-

Continued on page 65

ANGELS

Continued from page 17

gle, then, would be for the soul of man rather than the earthly dwelling of man.

"Entities riding etherically propelled vehicles and obviously in psychic control in all its forms devise contact encounters with ingenuous human beings who can be used in various ways to serve certain ends," Constable states. "Most of these encounters produce only chatter and bewilderment. These entities often hypnotize their victims, use them for various experiments, then give them posthypnotic suggestions that will serve whatever end is sought."

The overall consequence of these acts of deception in Constable's view is that the world is led to believe that material craft are involved. If others are not convinced by the contactee's account, then the witness of alleged extraterrestrial vehicles is dubbed another flying saucer nut.

"Either way," Constable argues, "the world gets a lie overlaid with confusion and ridicule while the humanoids depart from view."

Constable and many other serious thinkers believe that the coming battle for Earth is a spiritual struggle with the very soul, mind, and destiny of humankind at stake. "Man is at once the goal of the battle and the battleground," Constable writes in *The Cosmic Pulse of Life*. "The choice man makes — the extent to which he utilizes balancing forces to neutralize Ahrimanic assault — will bring him victory or defeat."

Other investigators of the UFO contactee enigma believe that a mass invasion of Earth would already have taken place if it had not been for the intervention of other, more benevolent beings. According to some contactees and researchers alike, a kind of "Interplanetary Council" has decreed that a planet's biological and technological evolution should not be interfered with in any way. Therefore, say certain men and women, the benevolent entities are doing what they can to halt the invasion of Earth and to right the vast number of wrongs that have already been dealt to the human species.

In our current work, *The UFO Abductors* (Berkley), we conclude from the accounts of certain abductees and contactees that the citizens of Earth appear to be encountering at least two representatives of extraterrestrial or multidimensional worlds. There seem to be those UFO intelligences who are genuinely concerned about our welfare and our spiritual and physical evolution, and there are those who seem largely indifferent to our personal needs and our species' continued existence. Unless we are somehow perceiving different aspects of the same entities, then it might well be that our beautiful green oasis in space could serve as a prize in a war of the worlds.

The ultimate test of anyone's true intentions is to reserve judgment until you have had time to observe that person in action over a period of time. "By their works, you shall know them."

This may be difficult to achieve, given the spontaneous and transient nature of most UFO encounters.

Neither may it be possible to demand identification in order to determine if the entity involved in the close encounter is a good guy or a bad guy.

What remains, however, is really most important: You and the balance that you seek to maintain in your own life. If you sincerely strive to keep your personal universe spiritually and physically harmonious, you will be better prepared to exercise the proper discernment should you encounter aspects of the larger universe. □

PARA-APE

Continued from page 42

ning, intelligence behind the UFO phenomena. What is their purpose here? The answer is contingent upon the supreme riddle. Most of its parts are; the UFOs themselves, landing-artifacts, occupants, contactees, the ominous lost time syndrome, Mute phenomena (the acquisition of certain cattle parts), and the MIB (Men In Black). Comprehension of the whole would reveal the purpose of the para-apes. Unfortunately, we do not have all the pieces to the puzzle and so we are left in the dark — at least for the time being. □

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since 1965, Don Worley has investigated over 300 UFO cases, concentrating for the most part not so much on "objects seen in the sky," but on the far weirder ground-level phenomena often associated with the appearance of flying saucers. The 66-year-old aircraft patternmaker represents both the Center for UFO Studies and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in his home state of Indiana. In years past, he has had official Indiana police-authorization to investigate strange happenings, and in 1967 he acted as part of a reporting network for the University of Colorado's government-funded UFO study which resulted in the Condon Report.

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OREGON WOMAN'S UNEXPLAINABLE EXPERIENCE

Tahalita Fry is the daughter of a full-blood Cherokee whose name means "dancing water." Back in September, 1972 the Merlin, Oregon resident was out walking with a friend looking over some land she hoped to sell. They had just climbed a grassy knoll when the Yashica camera Tahahlta was carrying around her neck started to click the shutter by itself.

"Every once in a while, I'd hear the camera snap," she recalls. "A few days later when I went to get the film from the drug store after it had been developed, I was surprised to see that I had captured a rather large bell-shaped craft on several of the prints." At first she was convinced that the pictures were not from her roll, but checking the negatives she found that they were on the same film strip with photos showing her standing on the front porch of her home. "Thinking back, I did hear a peculiar humming sound in the sky, but I didn't see anything unusual at the time." Fry says she isn't trying to convince anybody UFOs are real, "but the universe is big enough that there has to be life of all kinds out there," she concludes.

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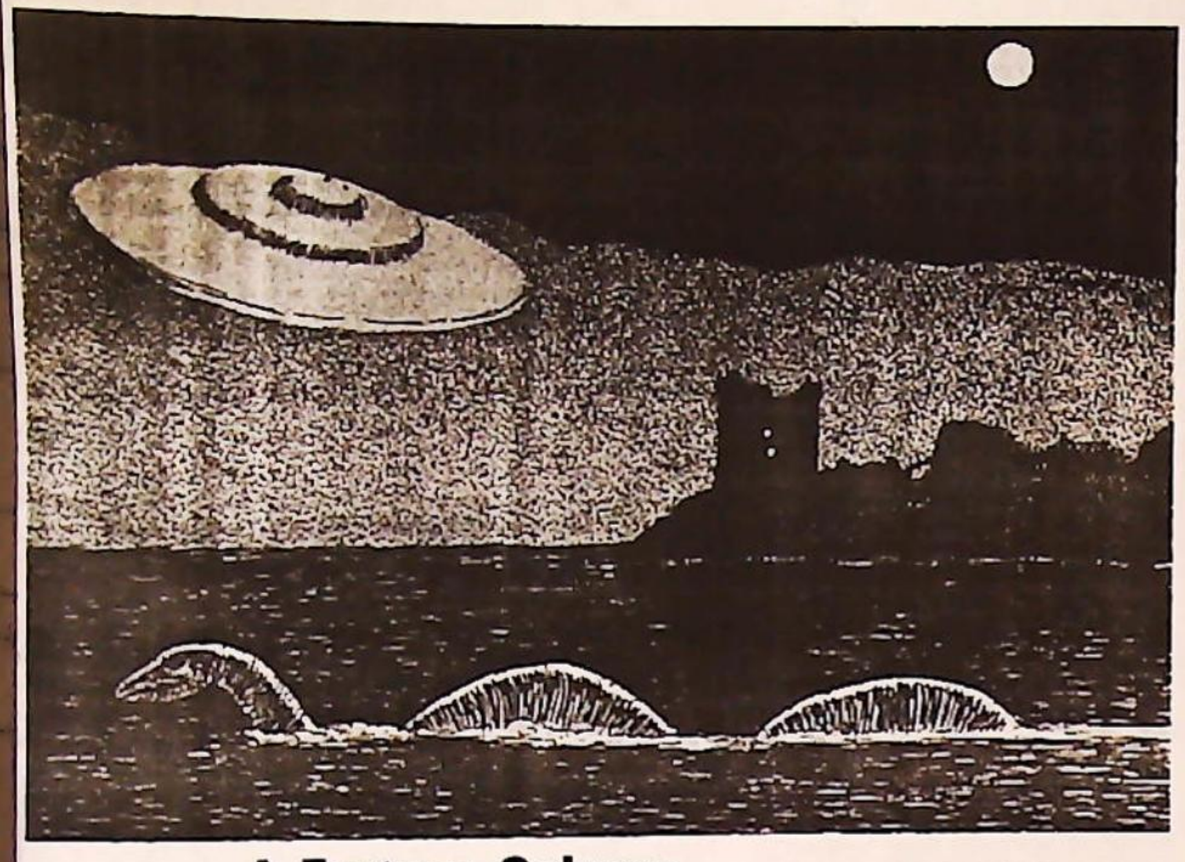

STRANGE UNIVERSE

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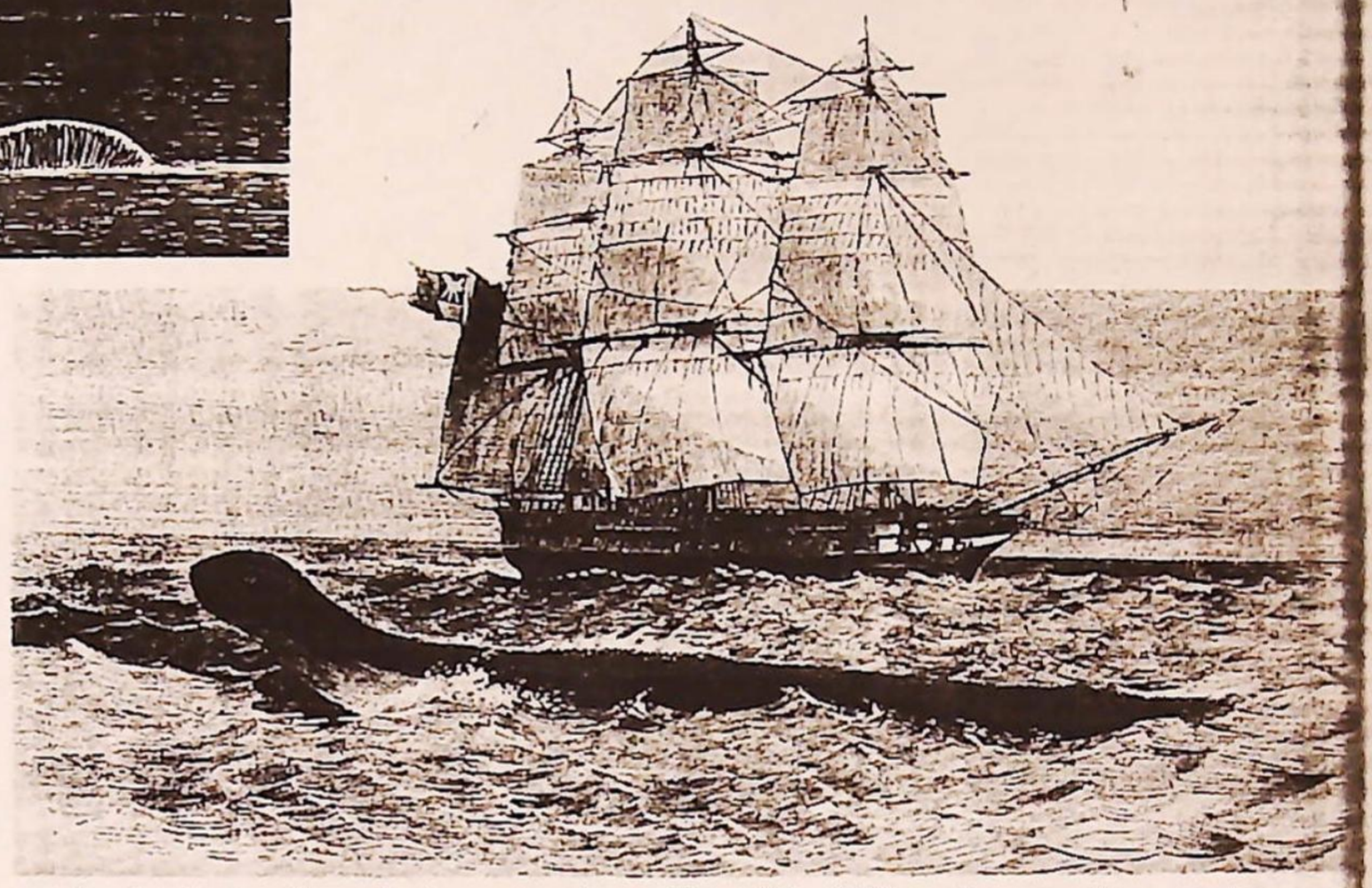

Many of the sightings of sea monsters seem to have been made over the years by careful observers, indicating that something strange and unusual still swims in our oceans, rivers and lakes.

A Fortean Column

The father of ufology, Charles Fort, (1874-1932), was also the father of dozens of other fields of study and in this regular column we will explore some of these other areas of the seemingly inexplicable and the anomalous. Strange falls from the sky, poltergists, mysterious disappearances, strange lunar activity, unknown races, archeological enigmas, and hundreds of other topics will be examined in future issues. All aspects of "forteana" — those subjects that have been largely excluded from scientific study — will be considered fair game.

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The worldwide search for monsters is continuing at a breakneck pace. A number of investigative groups are committed to discovering such unusual wildlife as lake and river monsters such as Nessie, Champ, Chessie, Ogopogo and many more. To kick off this column, let's start with a look at a marine mystery from the past.

The Diabolus Maris

Courtesy of fortean extraordinaire Dwight Whalen we have a clipping from *The Daily Cataract* of Niagra Falls, N.Y. The story, which ran on September 18, 1896, concerns a bizarre sea creature supposedly caught off the coast of Florida, at Malanzas inlet. The monster was given the name *Diabolus Maris* and wac on exhibition in Tampa, Florida. According to the article, the "naturalists who have seen it can find no other name for it, and its like has never been seen before."

The newspaper notes that "some fish have fins that resemble wings, and can be used for flying, but fish do not wear hair. The presence of legs argues that it is not a fish, and its ability to live underwater and the gills prove that it is not a bird."

Capt. George Bier of the United States Navy described the creature as having "no scales although it can swim. A portion of its body is covered with hair and when it wants to fly it inflates two windbags behind its wings. This inflation is through its gills, which are situated on its breast. It stands upright on its feet, which are shaped like hoofs. Its face and body are more human like than anything else, and its mouth is like that of a raccoon, garnished with two rows of teeth. It stood about 20 inches high and strutted like a rooster."

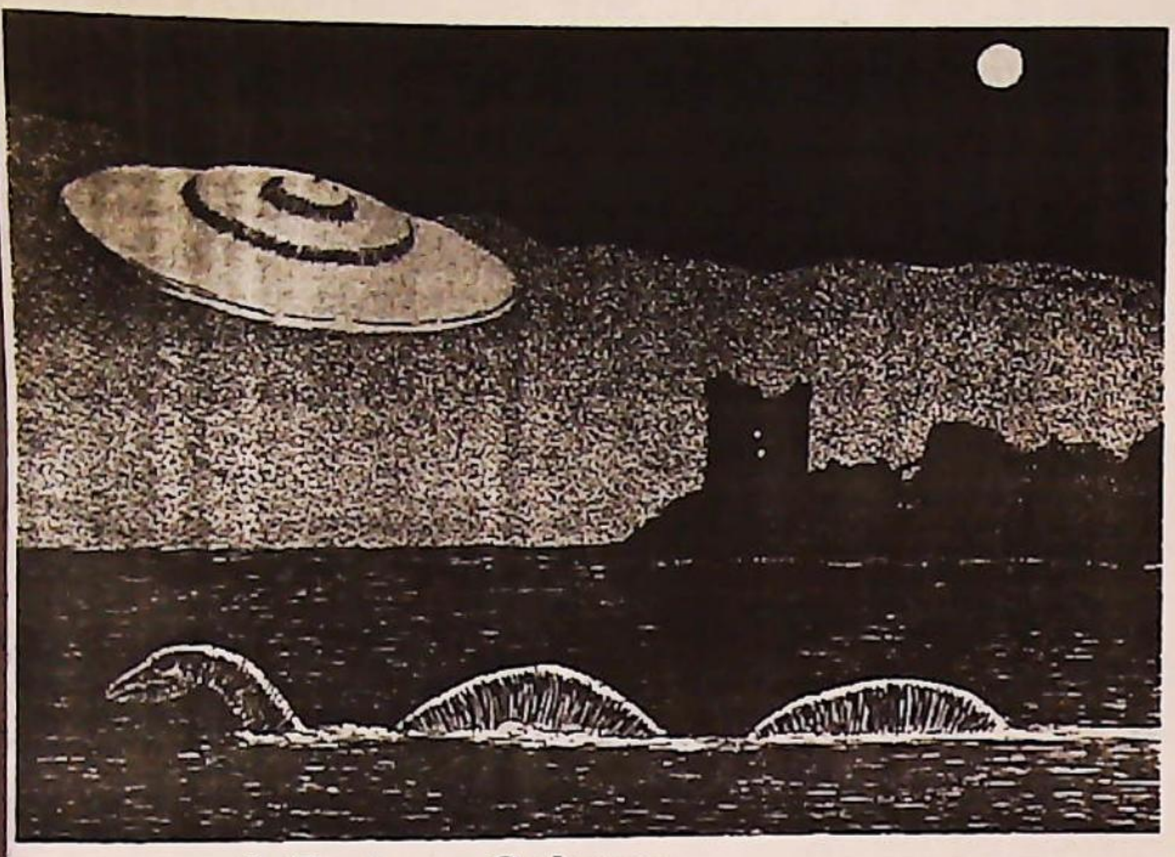
The animal was caught in 72 feet of water on a hook and line. It allegedly put up a fight when it was dragged on board. The creature was reportedly so vicious that it could not be handled and was killed in order to preserve it.

This strikes me as a very possible case of a publicity gimmick in the fashion of the famous Sandusky Sea Serpent, which turned out to be a PR stunt for a carnival snake exhibit. The "human like face and body," the "wings" and the tail are very reminiscent of a "devilfish," the bizarre fabrication made from the body of a ray and occasionally exhibited as an alien or a sea monster. It is possible that a devilfish was displayed as a *Diabolus Maris* and the tale of its strutting like a rooster and its legs with hooves may have been pure hype. The devilfish, after some minor fabrication work, appears to have two "leg"-like structures but lacks hooves.

What are the possibilities that the creature might have been real? If I learn that there was in fact a Capt. Bier in the U.S. Navy in Florida in 1896, and I find that there are corroborating accounts, I will spend more time thinking about what it could be if it was real. I have recently had an account of fish with feet and hooves and this may tie-in in some way. Watch this column for further details as we track down this historical case.

Sea Monster Carcasses

The carcass of a sea-serpent washed up on a beach is the equivalent to the ufologist's crash-retrieval cases. Proof—tangible, visible, photographable proof—could be provided by finding a carcass. Unfortunately, most unusual carcasses turn out



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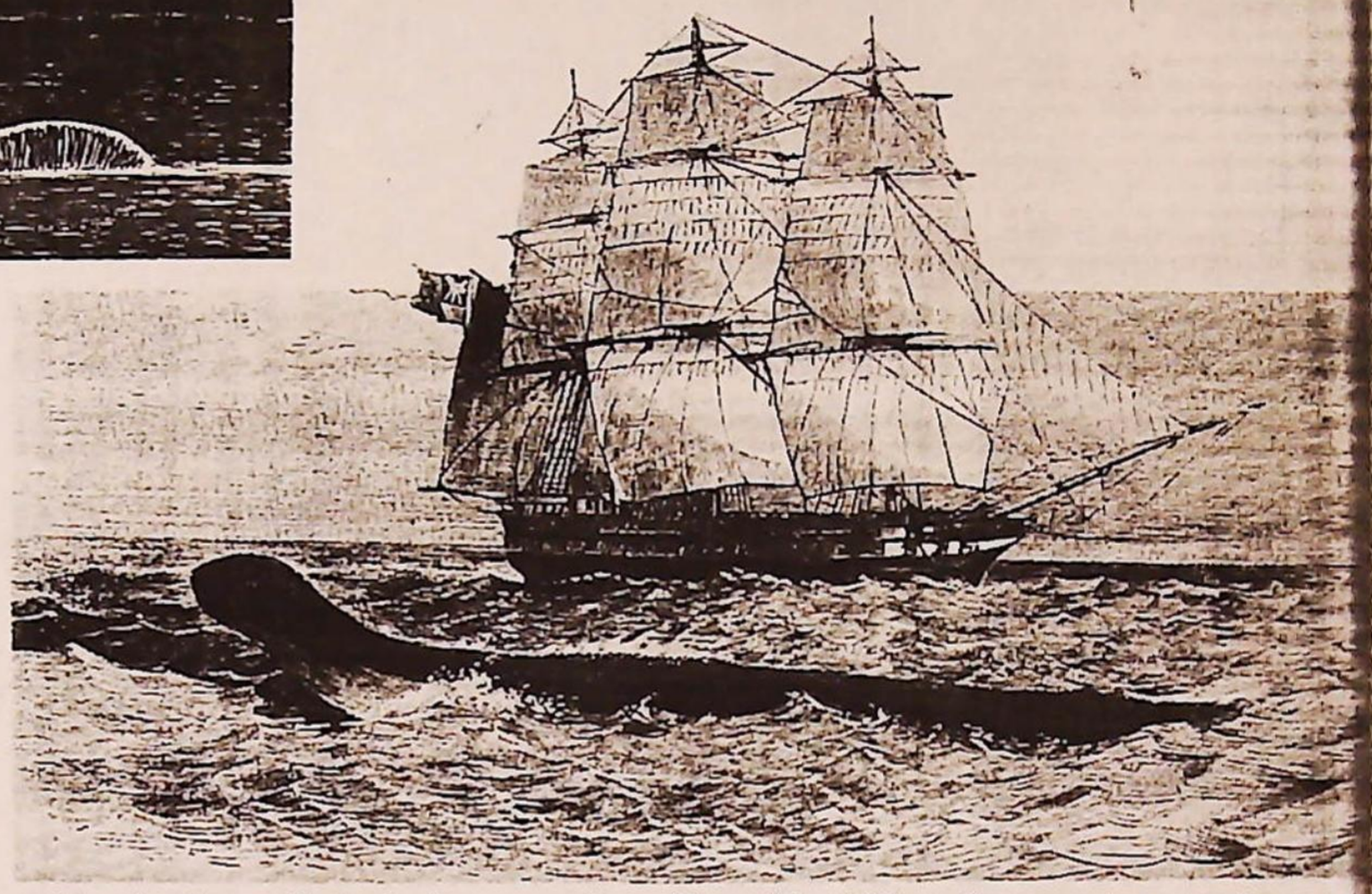

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to have prosaic explanations. Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans in his classic text *In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents* discusses many of the dozens of strange carcasses that have washed up on beaches around the world. He feels that it is unlikely for a sea-serpent — except for eel-shaped sharks — to be washed up on a beach and stranded as he reasons that the seven main types of creatures that together comprise what we call sea-serpents are among the least likely to be stranded and would be capable of getting back into the water if they were washed up onto a beach. This notion takes into account only accidental strandings of a sea-serpent. There is also the possibility that a sea monster could die at sea of natural causes or in battle and its carcass washed by the tide onto a beach. We will examine such a case shortly. It is also possible that a huge unknown sea creature could be frozen in ice as may have happened in another case we will discuss. While Dr. Heuvelmans has determined that the vast majority of strange carcasses are the decomposed remains of large basking sharks and other conventional sea creatures such as oarfish, he nevertheless concludes that some monster carcasses remain unexplained by zoologists.

Maryland Monster Mania

Maryland has been the home of a good many classic monsters and other than the sanllygaster and Chessie, the local marine monster of the Chesapeake Bay, very little has been written about the Maryland monsters. The *Maryland Bigfoot Reference Guide,* by researcher/investigator Mark Opsasnick, is an impressive piece of monster research that takes a big step toward remedying this gap in monster study. In addition to 219 Maryland monster sightings, Mark includes notes on various personalities, past and present, in the monster investigation field in Maryland. While most of the sightings are of bigfoot-esque hairy hominids, Mark also includes some large reptile cases, snallygaster, Goatman, the apple creature, Dwayyo, and other indigenous beasties. This 32 page booklet can be obtained from Arcturus Book Service, P.O. Box 831383, Stone Mtn, GA 30083, for $3.50 plus $1.00 postage.

Mark Opsasnick and this investigator have combined our resources and are conducting exhaustive research into the subject of Maryland monsters. We are interested in obtaining information on this subject — if any readers are aware of any Maryland Monster sightings, they should contact us c/o this magazine.

The Tecoluta Sea Monster

There were 35 tons of it washed up on the beach in Tecoluta, Mexico in March, 1969 and whatever it was, it certainly set imaginations going. The strange serpent-like body was covered with hard jointed armor. A 10 foot bone tusk—estimated to weigh a ton—protruded from its head. UPI reported that biologists thought that the

Anything akin to this creature is certain to keep you out of the water for a long time to come.

creature might have been a narwhal (which has a long tusk), but that after seeing the carcass, "they could not match it with any sea creature known to man." The international press reported that a prehistoric monster of some sort had been beached and the world awaited further word on the carcass.

A seven-man commission of scientists reported on April 20, 1969 that the monster was a rorqual whale, known as the finback whale. The Monster of Tecoluta may have been a whale rather than a thawed dinosaur, but that did not stop it from attracting sightseers from near and far. The scientists insisted that the creature be buried as it was rotting rapidly and they felt they had nothing to learn from it. After a great political battle, the mayor of Tecoluta overruled the scientists and said that the Monster would be kept as a tourist attraction despite its stunning smell and the fact that the scientists were satisfied with their explanation, which curiously did not address the existence of the creature's ton-size tusk.

Monster on Ice

On November 26, 1930 the readers of the *New York Times* learned that the carcass of a giant lizard-like creature with fur had been found on the remote Glacier Island in Alaska. "Ice Bares Strange Animal—Alaskans Suggest Prehistoric Origin," read the headline and it would have been hard to find a much better location and premise for a low budget monster movie. The creature, described as being in perfect condition, was said to be 42 feet long with a 6 foot head, a 20 foot body, and a 16 foot long tail. "The theory has been advanced," the article explained, "that the carcass is that of a prehistoric animal or reptile that has been preserved in the upper reaches of the Columbia glacier."

Three days later there was more news of the monster. "Monster in Ice Has Long Snout," proclaimed the *New York Sun* on November 28. "Confirm Finding of Prehistoric Monster in Ice" read the headline in the (New York) *Evening World*. W.J. MacDonald, supervisor of the Chugach National Forest and a party of six others went to Glacier Island to investigate. The story was at first regarded dubiously in Alaska until McDonald's party reaches the site and reported back on their first-hand examination of the creature. McDonald described the animal as being shaped unlike any other creature known to have existed anywhere in the region. The animal had "a long tail and tapering head, like a dinosaur," McDonald said. McDonald's measurements were much more specific than the early reports: the head, described as being much like that of an elephant, was 59 inches long; the snout, from the end to the center of the forehead was 39 inches; the width of the snout at midsection was 11 inches with a 29 inch circumference; the widest part of the beast's skeleton wsa 38 inches; the animal's length was 24 feet, with a 14 foot tail which started at the rib section. The Glacier Island Monster was estimated to have weighed 1000 pounds. Charles Fort, mentions the case very briefly in his book *Lol,* in which he states that there was "considerable flesh" found. McDonald's report contradicts this, stating that "only a small portion of the body had flesh on it," and that it resembled horseflesh.

McDonald believed that the creature became encased in the Columbia glacier and was carried to the sea with the movement of Glacier Island in the past centuries. However, as Fort pointed out in his mention of the case in *Lol,* just because something was found in ice doesn't mean that it was preserved in the ice for ages. Dr. Heuvelmans devotes only a one-line listing to this case in his book, concluding that the outcome of the case must have been disappointing as there was no further publicity about it. Lack of follow-up articles on strange phenomena is common, and so the tantalizing case of the Glacier Island Monster carcass remains unexplained.

The Mysterious Natal Creature

One such carcass was the strange Natal creature that made a splash in the South African Press in 1922. Hugh Ballance told the press that he saw what he took to be "two whales fighting with some sea monster about 1,300 yards from the shore." After putting on his glasses he was amazed to see what appeared to be a "polar bear" of a mammoth proportions. The animal reared a full twenty feet out of the water and seemed to have a tail which it struck the two whales with. Dr. Heuvelmans points out that this was no ordinary polar bear: in addition to it being giant and having a tail long enough to swing at an opponent, the polar bear is not known to be found in the southern hemisphere.

Crowds of onlookers on the shore viewed the battle of the behemoths. After three hours of fighting the strange creature was

killed and the whales swam away. The body of the dead creature was left floating on the surface of the water until the following night when the tide deposited it onto the shore.

"It was certainly a giant of a creature, forty-seven feet long, ten feet in breadth and five feet high. At one end it had a trunk-like appendage about fouteen inches in diameter and five feet long. The creature was covered in snow-white hair and seemed to be devoid of blood," wrote T.V. Bulpin in his tome about South Africa, *Your Undiscovered Country*. The creature drew many gawkers during the ten days that it lay on the beach, but no zoologists examined it and it was washed away by the spring tide, ensuring that it would remain a mystery forever.

The International Monster Database

This columnist is working with a number of other researchers and investigators in developing an International Monster Database (IMD) on computer. The IMD will ultimately include all known monster sightings internationally. This is obviously a big project but the work has begun in earnest and extensive files have been collected and data entry forms that can double as case report forms have been developed as have the programs for manipulating the data.

Blank forms may be ordered for personal use in your investigations or to fill out with your cases for inclusion on the IMD. The data is being collected from sources world-wide and will be available as part of a larger cryptozoological data collection and fortean archive to be based in the Washington, D.C. area that will be accessible by computers via modem from anywhere in the world.

Send in your monster sightings and clips to this column and as many of them as possible will be included in future issues and they will be entered into the IMD as well. Monster data should be archived and under no conditions should researchers discard their files when they find that they are running out of storage space. Contact this column or one of the fortean organizations or magazines who maintain archives and send it to them as they will do their best to maintain the material and make it available to future researchers. This is especially true for actual case reports and notes and correspondence with informants.

Historical Monster Research

Checking historical accounts of monsters can be very valuable and is much less expensive and dangerous than a trip to the Congo. You can give me a microfilm machine over a mosquito net anytime! Finding newspaper articles from the late 1900s describing monster sightings in a region may be highly corroborative if they are on the level. In cases where a modern monster seems to have no historical precedents, the case for that monster's existence may be weakened. Sometimes newspaper research may completely demolish a case, such as those instances when a monster turns out to be the creation of an editor or reporter. In other cases, newspaper research can reopen a case as obscure articles bring new facts to light that have not been in print for many decades. Readers who have never gone into their local libraries and looked through their regional newspapers from 100 years ago will be in for a real treat if they come across a paper with a taste for the strange. Check out your local papers from, say, the 1880s or the 1930s on microfilm on a reader/printer and print out any articles about strange phenomena that you come across. If you have never done this ask your librarian for advice. Most libraries have local papers on microfilm, some going back to colonial times. Large regional libraries and university graduate libraries are your best bet, and many of them have an index to the newspapers in their collection.

Make certain that you write the name of the newspaper, the city and state, the page number, the date, and your name on the photocopy of the articles you find so you can make easy reference to them later on

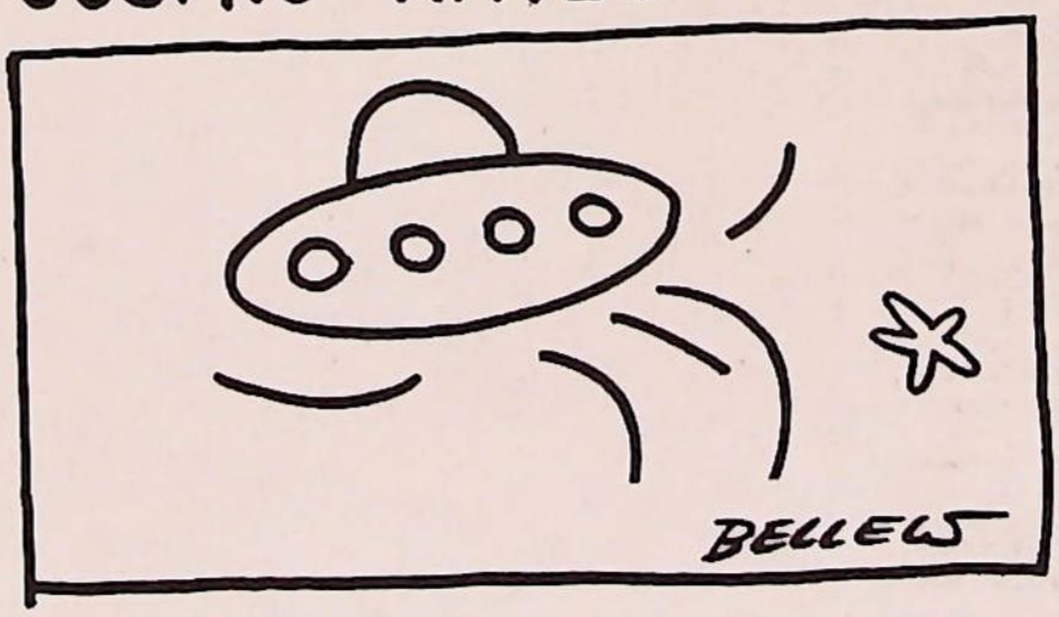
Sea serpentws have been reported for centuries. In this illustration from earlier times, such a creature is actually feasting on human flesh. We have to wonder if this episode hasn't been over dramatised.

Readers are invited to write in and let us know what topics they would like to see in this column. We will also answer readers' questions about strange phenomena consulting with specialists when necessary. We are looking forward to hearing from you and to seeing you here next issue as we explore more of this *Strange Universe!*

ABOUT MARK CHORVINSKY

Besides being a top flight investigator of the strange and unknown, Mark is also an accomplished magician and movie maker. He also runs a store devoted to his favorite past times, lectures widely, and edits his own publication. STRANGE MAGAZINE may be obtained from this columnist by writing him directly at Box 2246 Rockville, Maryland 208[illegible]

COSMIC RAVES



YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT AT THE LAST SAUCER-STOP